

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-27 (Canceled)

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✓ 28. (New) A method for rendering a graphical component of a web page on a computer display upon receiving a web page request for rendering of the graphical component, the method comprising:

determining whether a defined theme META tag is present in the web page;

routing the rendering request to a theme manager contained within a dynamic link library of a computer operating system if the defined theme META tag is present, the theme manager having tools responsible for rendering graphical components in accordance with at least one defined theme for both markup language and non-markup language applications; and

rendering the graphical component.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising determining if the theme META tag is set to indicate whether a themed appearance is desired.

B<sup>1</sup> 30. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising routing the rendering request to the theme manager only if the themed META tag is set to indicate that a themed appearance is desired.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising rendering the graphical component using the tools provided by the theme manager to display appearance characteristics of an active defined theme if a themed appearance is desired.

32. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising rendering the graphical component in accordance with a default mode for the web page if an active defined theme provided by theme manager does not include appearance characteristics for the requested component.

33. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising providing a set of appearance characteristics through the theme manager, the set comprising at least parts information and location information for the requested graphical component.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the set of appearance characteristics additionally comprises state information indicating a state of the control.

35. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

determining, if the theme META tag is set to indicate a themed appearance is desired, whether the web page has specified cascading style sheet properties;

if cascading style sheet properties are specified, determining whether the specified properties are one of a number of predetermined properties desired to be ignored; and

applying only those cascading style sheet properties that are not one of the predetermined properties to be ignored.

36. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising rendering the requested control utilizing a standard look that is not themed by the appearance manager if the theme META tag is not present.

37. (New) A method of rendering a graphical component of a web page on the display of a computer, the web page being hosted by an application, the computer having an appearance manager within a dynamic link library of a computer operating system adapted to render a graphical component upon receiving a request for the graphical component, comprising:

instantiating, by the application, a web page;

receiving a web page request for a graphical component to be rendered on the display;

determining whether a defined theming flag is set by the application;

determining whether a theme META tag exists within the web page, wherein the theme META tag is one of absent, positive, and negative; and

routing the rendering request for the graphical component to the appearance manager within the dynamic link library of the computer operating system if the theming flag is set by the application and the theme META tag is one of absent and positive, wherein upon receiving the routed request, the appearance manager within the dynamic link library of the computer operating system assigns themed appearance characteristics to the graphical component and renders the graphical component on the display.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the appearance manager controls a set of appearance characteristics including at least parts information and location information for the graphical component.

B' 39. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising:  
determining whether the web page has specified cascading style sheet properties;  
if cascading style sheet properties are specified, determining whether the specified properties are one of a number of predetermined properties desired to be ignored; and  
applying only those cascading style sheet properties that are not one of the predetermined properties to be ignored.

40. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising rendering the requested control utilizing a standard look that is not themed by the appearance manager if the theming flag is not set by the application and the theme META tag is not present.

41. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising:  
if the theming flag is set by the application, determining whether a defined theme META tag is present and negative to indicate that a themed appearance is not desired in the web page; and  
if the theme META tag is present and indicates that themes are not desired, rendering the requested control utilizing a standard look that is not themed by the appearance manager.

✓ 42. (New) A method of rendering a graphical component of a web on a display of a computer, the computer having an appearance manager within a dynamic link library of an operating system of the computer, upon receiving a web page request for rendering of the graphical component, the method comprising:

determining whether the web page has specified cascading style sheet properties;  
if cascading style sheet properties are not specified, determining whether a theme style is specified in the web page; and

routing the rendering request for the graphical component to the appearance manager within the dynamic link library of the computer operating system if the theme style is specified in the web page, wherein the appearance manager assigns themed appearance characteristics to the graphical component and renders the graphical component on the display.

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43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the graphical component being requested and rendered is a control.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, further comprising rendering the requested control utilizing a standard look that is not themed by the appearance manager if the theme style is not specified.

45. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising rendering the requested control utilizing the cascading style sheet properties if they are specified, rather than routing the request to the appearance manager.

✓ 46. (New) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for:

determining whether a defined theme META tag is present in a web page request for rendering of a graphical component, the defined theme META tag providing an indicator related to a defined theme, the defined theme being defined within the appearance manager within a dynamic link library of a computer operating system and comprising a set of appearance characteristics applicable to both HTML and non-HTML applications; and

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routing the rendering request for the graphical component to the appearance manager within the dynamic link library of the computer operating system if the defined theme META tag is present, wherein the appearance manager assigns themed appearance characteristics in accordance with the defined theme to the graphical component and renders the graphical component on the display.

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